

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 2. Claims 2, 3 and 7-9 have been amended for clarity. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Prior Art Based Issues

The following prior art based rejections are pending:

- A) Claims 1-3 and 5-7¹ have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Oka (JP 07-090179);
- B) Claims 1, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kin (JP-11-185962).
- C) Claims 4 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oka.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The present invention relates to a charge transporting varnish, and a charge transporting thin film and an organic electroluminescent (hereinafter abbreviated as EL) device using the same. The inventive charge transporting varnish is capable of forming a thin film whose defects are very small in number and which is high in uniformity and flatness and excellent in mechanical strength, heat resistance and transparency and also capable of realizing excellent EL characteristics such as a low drive voltage, high emission efficiency, prolonged life and the like when used as an organic EL device, and also to provide a charge transporting thin film and an organic EL device, each using the same.

One of the features of the charge transporting varnish that gives the inventive varnish these improved properties resides in the fact that the oligoaniline derivative represented by the

¹ Applicants note that the statement of the rejection lists only claims 1-3, however, claims 5-7 are also discussed by the Examiner in the body of the Examiner's comments. As such, Applicants treat herein the rejection based on Oka to include present claims 5-7. Clarification from the Examiner is requested.

formula (1) has the radical R^3 representing an unsubstituted or substituted aryl group. That is, both ends of the oligoaniline derivative are capped with aryl groups.

Oka discloses a charge transporting substance made of a charge transporting polyaniline and a polyimide.

Kin discloses a hole transporting layer containing a polyimide represented by the formula (I) and a doped polyaniline.

However, one skilled in the art would reasonably conclude that the polyanilines of Oka and Kin have at least one amino group at the end of the molecule. This conclusion would be proper based on the fact that neither Oka nor Kin discuss the end groups. As such, it is reasonable to interpret from the entire disclosure of Oka and Kin that the polyanilines would have end groups which are identical to the monomers making up the backbone of the polymer, i.e., aniline groups wherein the amino group of the aniline moiety is present in at least one end of the polymer. Therefore, the charge transporting substance of Oka and Kin are different from the inventive aryl capped-oligoaniline. In addition, Oka and Kin fail to teach or fairly suggest an aryl-capped oligoaniline.

As the MPEP directs, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness. See MPEP §§ 2131 and 2143.03. In view of the fact that Oka and Kin fail to teach or fairly suggest an aryl-capped oligoaniline to be used in the charge transporting substance, a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness cannot be said to exist.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

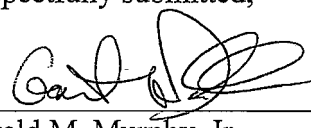
In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, PhD, Registration No. 43575 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: December 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By  #43575

for Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.

Registration No.: 28977

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

703-205-8000